

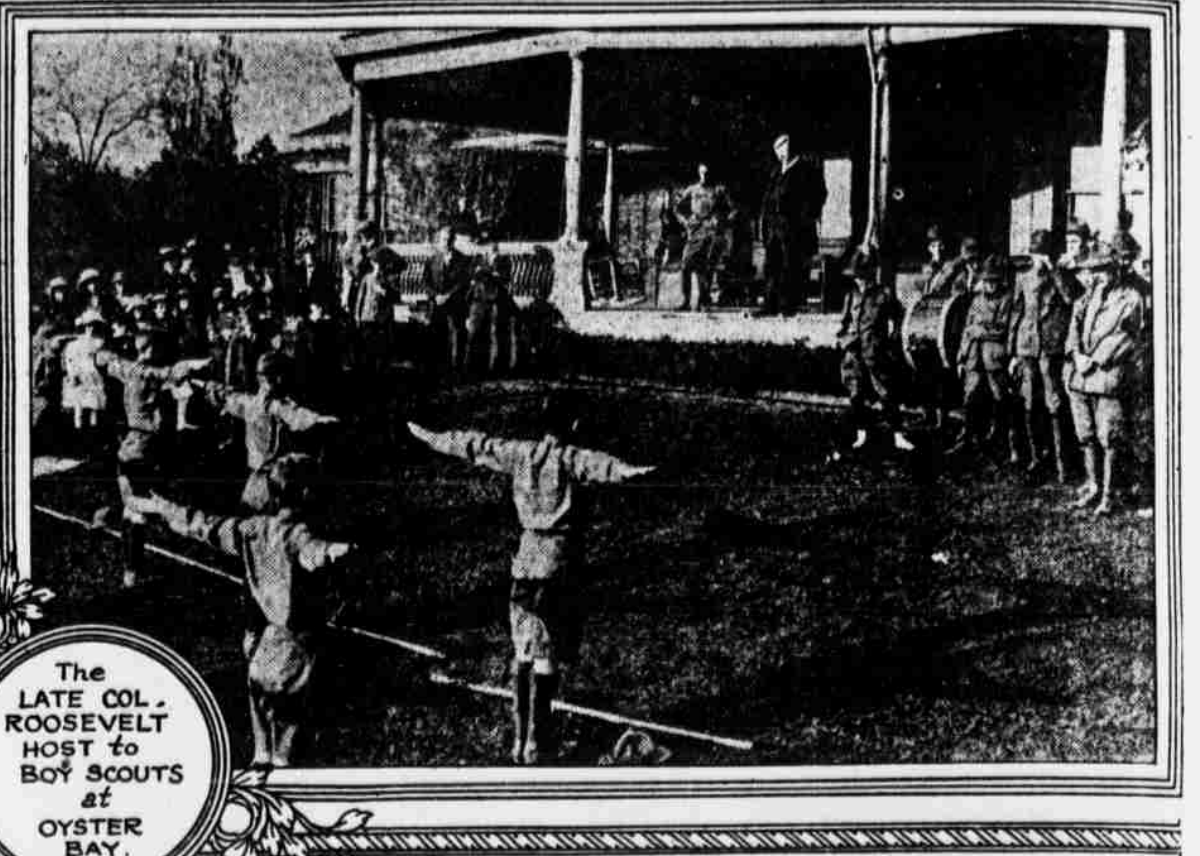
# What Mankind Owes Baden-Powell, Grand Master of Boy Scouts



SIR ROBERT BADEN-POWELL IN SCOUT COSTUME



SIR ROBERT BADEN-POWELL RECEIVING A MESSAGE FROM A SCOUT



The LATE COL. ROOSEVELT HOST TO BOY SCOUTS AT OYSTER BAY.

## Sir Robert's Organization, Perfected Despite Great Opposition, Found Vindication in War Service and Promises Greater Benefits to Lands That Have Adopted It

By F. CUNLIFFE-OWEN.

MANKIND owes a heavy debt of gratitude to Lieut.-Gen. Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Colonel in Chief of his old regiment, the Thirtieth Hussars, whose name always will be associated with one of the finest feats of arms of the South African war of twenty years ago—the heroic and successful defence of Mafeking. For he is the founder, the originator and the master organizer of the worldwide Boy Scout movement, which has transformed our boys from slithering Lord Fauntleroyes, from intolerable young cubs and from equally objectionable young pigs into very useful members of the community, with a sense of discipline, of self-respect and responsibility, imbued with a determination to "make good" rather than to "be good," into lads that are as wholesome in mind as they are in physique.

If the movement has been of incalculable advantage in the present it is certain to bring still far greater benefits in the future, for the Boy Scouts of today, with their admirable training, developing all that is best in them and imbuing them with principles of order, decency and honor, cannot fail to grow up into patriotic citizens. Indeed, the world will reap, in the generations now growing up into manhood and in those yet to come, the full measure of the fruits of the wonderful Boy Scout movement.

### Movement Eleven Years Old.

Sir Robert Baden-Powell started the Boy Scout movement about eleven years ago under the most adverse circumstances. At the time pacifism was in the air in Great Britain, where the people displayed the utmost reluctance to make the pecuniary sacrifices indispensable to the maintenance of even a preposterously small army, and abused the late Field Marshal Lord Roberts as a scare monger owing to his preaching, all in vain, alas! the doctrine of military preparedness. The public frowned upon the Boy Scout movement, initiated by Baden-Powell, as an attempt to militarize—Prussians was the word employed—the youth of the United Kingdom. It was assailed and ridiculed from the pulpit, from the platform and in the press, and, above all, it was discredited and discouraged in every way by the War Department and by those who were then in authority at Whitehall, who chose to denounce it as a Baden-Powell scheme for self-advertisement.

Fortunately for the Boy Scout movement, it excited the interest and in course of time won the good will and support of that grand old soldier Lord Roberts, who was quick to appreciate the fact that boys trained according to the plans of Baden-Powell would grow up not only into first rate citizens but also into well disciplined, and therefore useful defenders of their country.

### King Edward Is Converted.

Through the veteran Field Marshal the attention of the late King was attracted to the organization. This was of great service. Efforts had been made to prejudice the monarch against Baden-Powell and therefore anything with which the latter was identified could not expect to find much favor at court. No man, and assuredly no sovereign, was ever more ready to admit and to repair a mistake in judgment than Edward VII., especially when there was any question of injustice connected therewith. He was too much of a man of the world, too broadminded and too generous to be elated by the flattery of the press, started in 1908 and in the early fall of 1909 the authorities of the War Department and Baden-Powell's many adversaries both in and out of the service were startled to read in the daily newspapers that he had been "commanded" by the King to visit him at Balmoral. The General's stay at the Highland home of his sovereign was prolonged for several days. Edward VII. went into the various phases of the movement exhaustively and with the most practical suggestions that naturally were adopted and ended by giving his hearty and enthusiastic approval to the organization, promising the General that he would take the earliest opportunity possible to review

the Boy Scouts so as to give a public sovereign recognition of the force. Baden-Powell is a gifted and accomplished man, with an extraordinary fund of strange personal experience and of anecdote. He proved a most entertaining guest to the King, who felt himself much drawn toward this gallant and capable soldier. He realized that through others he had allowed himself to be unduly prejudiced against B. P., and, as was customary with this kindly sovereign, he set to work in making amends. For, before Baden-Powell left Balmoral, he received at the hands of his royal host the Star of a Knight Commander of the Victorian Order and that handle to his name for which he had been waiting ever since his return from the war in South Africa. In fact, it was as "Sir" Robert Baden-Powell that he returned from Scotland to London.

### Pokes Up War Office.

Edward VII. was not content with bestowing the knighthood of the Victorian Order upon Baden-Powell. This, in a manner, a personal distinction and not a military honor. He made it his business to inquire at the War Department why the General's name had never been submitted for that promotion in the Order of the Bath, which should have come to him for his defence of Mafeking. These nominations, in the case of soldiers, are all made by the War Department, and indeed all appointments to the Order of the Bath are made through the same agency. In fact, the King was so stiff with the military authorities that he neglected to which Baden-Powell had been subjected after leaving Balmoral. Sir Robert's name appeared in the official Gazette as promoted to the rank of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath.

Naturally all this was not calculated to endear Baden-Powell to his superiors. In the first place they had received a royal wiggling on his account.

## More Buildings Only Solution to New York's Housing Problem

Continued from First Page.

In the city at a cost of \$550 a room, not figuring the cost of the land, which varied with location. At present it cannot be done under \$773, and according to the Reconstruction Commission that figure is too low. Assuming that it is correct, \$22,000,000 would be needed to build 10,000 homes, with 75,000 homes needed. To have such a building ready for the tenants takes eight months.

The New York Title and Mortgage Company studied the rise of the cost of building a typical five-story brick walk-up tenement, 50 by 80 feet in area. One such was completed a few months ago, at a cost of \$50,000. It rents at \$10 a room. Five years ago, according to the study, the cost would have been \$32,000, and the rent \$6.50 and \$7 a room. In 1916, \$40,000, and \$8 a room.

Allan E. Beals of the Dow Service Daily Building Report wrote in April: "Any student of economics understands that just so long as scarcity of houses continues, the main factor in the high cost of living will be aggravated rather than relieved and just so long as living costs remain high, cost of production of building materials and their assembly into finished structures will remain high, regardless of any Federal efforts to lower them."

"If the average builder has been waiting for more favorable price levels, let him recognize the opportunities that now lie before him. Let him figure his enterprise on present levels. If prices go temporarily lower he will be the one chiefly benefited. If they go higher the hesitating competitor will be the loser, and the former will reap the benefit of the nearest approach to Government subsidy of building construction this country has ever known."

For all the talk of rent profiteering, the Mayor's committee thereon, of which Nathan Hirsch is chairman, finds that 95 per cent. of the general rent increases in the city have been moderate and largely or wholly justified by increased costs and other changes, and that most of the wicked 5 per cent. of landlords are among those who operate old law tenements, whose tenements were never on leases

count. And then, too, at Whitehall, as in every other Government department, resentment is entertained against any one who is the object of royal intervention in his favor. Indeed, the General found himself so hampered by the War Office in his work for the Boy Scout movement, especially in the months following the death of his champion and friend, Edward VII., that he resigned his command of the Northumbrian Territorial Division, which he had taken over after a four years term as Inspector-General of Cavalry, and retired from the army in order to devote himself wholly and entirely to what he now regards as his life work.

### An Honor From King George.

After George V. had got well established in the saddle as King and had found time to look about him a bit he took an opportunity of publicly showing that he entertained the same sentiments of warm regard and good will for Sir Robert Baden-Powell and appreciation of his Boy Scout enterprise as those which Edward VII. had manifested in the closing years of his reign. For in the year following his accession the present King bestowed upon the General the Colony in Chief of the Thirtieth Hussars, a crack corps, which B. P. first joined as a subaltern of a little more than 17 some forty years ago. The appointment carried with it not only a considerable increase in emoluments and allowances added to his pay as a retired Lieutenant-General but also a great increase of military prestige, aside from the indication of a particularly kindly thought for him on the part of his sovereign.

Like every other old soldier on the retired list, Sir Robert rejoined the army on the outbreak of the great war in August, 1914, and, attached to the Headquarters Staff in France, rendered services of a secret yet of an extraordinarily valuable character in connection with the Intelligence Department. These who have read his entertaining and most instructive book "My Adventures as a Spy" will be able to form some faint idea of the wonderful ingenuity, originality and resourcefulness which he was in a position to display in connection with this particular branch of military work for which he is so preeminently fitted. "My Adventures as a Spy" deals with Baden-Powell's experiences before the great war. It is a matter of regret that military exigencies, and the possibility by no means remote of other wars to come in the near future, prevent, as in other cases of intelligence work during the last four years, the full range of the services rendered by Baden-Powell in this titanic conflict from becoming known.

### The Scouts Prove Themselves.

Incidentally, it may be said that if ever his Boy Scouts proved their usefulness it was in this great war. Those in Great Britain took over duties at home which relieved a force of nearly 50,000 soldiers for service at the front. They watched the coasts of the

United Kingdom by day and by night, supplementing the fine force of Coast Guards, who, being on the reserve list of the Royal Navy, were nearly all called back to duty afloat. The Boy Scouts kept watch on suspects, helped to guard prison camps, and with every faculty and sense on the keen alert rendered services without number to the military, the naval and the civil authorities. Indeed, through their agency a number of attacks by the enemy on the coast were frustrated, and no less than thirty German submarines haunting territorial waters were either bagged or destroyed.

Sir Baden-Powell's treatment by the War Department until his retirement from the army following the demise of Edward VII. was due to reasons that call for some explanation. In the first place his promotion as a young officer had been too rapid not to arouse professional jealousy and ill will, and then, too, there is—and especially there was—a prejudice among older officers and the civilian officials of the War Department against any man in the army gifted with originality, who gives expression to new ideas, who proposes reforms and who shows a disposition to depart from old fashioned routine. Naturally such a man as Baden-Powell was calculated to excite their ire. They regarded him as a nuisance and as a trouble maker.

As an instance of the reforms which he inaugurated, there was one which he carried through while Inspector-General of Cavalry with so much success that it attracted much attention and commendation abroad. Until he took the matter in hand cavalry recruits on joining were put through a course of rough riding in the riding schools which not only did much to dishearten them and thereby retard their training, but which frequently broke their spirit.

Baden-Powell abolished this method. He arranged that the recruit should be made acquainted with his horse under comfortable conditions calculated to inspire mutual confidence, and that his powers as a rider should be developed gradually. Under his plan the recruit was sent out into the field with a quiet mount, to ride about as he pleased, with or without a saddle. He was allowed to familiarize himself with the nag before any serious riding took place and thus acquired not only confidence but also a liking for and interest in his work. The polishing instruction followed in the riding school, but through him it was shorn of most of the brutality and roughness by which it had been previously characterized and which was foolishly regarded by the old fashioned riding masters as indispensable to proper instruction. He put through these reforms in the face of an extraordinary amount of professional opposition, and although the reforms were adopted in a number of foreign armies, yet they were abandoned in England as soon as ever means had been found to shunt him to another post, and the old ways were still in vogue at the beginning of the war.

### An Accomplished Entertainer.

If Baden-Powell's advancement as a subaltern was so rapid as to excite jealousy, it was largely due to his many accomplishments—to what his adversaries contemptuously described as his "parlor tricks." Thus he first commended himself to the good will of his immediate superiors by the talent with which he displayed as a mimic, a comic songster, an improvisatore and as a musician. The story goes that at his first mess dinner, after joining the Thirtieth Hussars, he was commanded to sing a song, with the idea of subjecting him to the same amount of mild hazing which falls to the share of almost every new subaltern. It was expected that this Charterhouse boy—he was barely 18—would make the same somewhat pitiable exhibition of himself as most other young English officers. They are as a rule somewhat shy and diffident. Instead of that he asked permission to accompany himself on the piano and treated his hearers to such a performance that they kept him at it for nearly two hours, treating him to round after round of applause.

### The Story of Mafeking.

This had the effect of obtaining for him one staff appointment after another, every one of his commanders being anxious to have such an entertaining man on his staff. Staff appointments afforded him the opportunity of earning all sorts of distinctions as the result of employment in special missions. Thus he saw service in India and in Afghanistan, was Assistant Military Secretary in South Africa, was in command of the native levies in the Ashanti war of 1895, chief staff officer in the Matabeleland campaign a year later and afterward Colonel commanding the Irregular Forces of South Africa. His career was largely due to his own merits. The military authorities saw the advantage thereof to induce a very harsh reprimand upon Baden-Powell for what they denounced as a pose of intolerable usurpation and presumption. They exploited the incident to such an extent that no official account was taken of his real services, his ingenuity and his gallantry which Baden-Powell displayed during the siege of Mafeking and when the time came for the War Department to submit to the crown the nomination for the rewards for those who had particularly distinguished themselves in the South African war, his name was conspicuous only by its omission. They could not risk him from his promotion to the rank of Major-General that came to him at the close of the war by virtue of his becoming a nuisance, even to his friends. He made no complaint, but set to work with undiminished vigor and courage at the tasks assigned to him until Lord Roberts, just before being jockeyed out of his position as Commander-in-Chief of all the British forces at home and abroad, asked upon his appointment to the post of Inspector-General of Cavalry, to succeed him.

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### Jersey Turns 'Em Away.

Jersey also, within the commutation zone, is hopeless, or very near it, from a home-seeker's point of view. "Looking for a house to rent in Jersey" asked a broker. "When you find it send me a photograph of it, will you? I'm always interested in curiosities."

To stimulate building in Queens the borough Chamber of Commerce has planned to organize a real estate bureau, which will bring to the attention of large financial institutions and of builders and brokers generally the advantages of undeveloped sites along the railroads and subway and trolley lines, where land values are exceptionally low at the present time. On the North Shore branch of the Long Island Railroad, between Little Neck and New York, one small private house and two blocks of eight four family houses each are the visible extent of house building this spring.

Richmond, according to real estate men, is the least exploited of the boroughs so far as raised rents are concerned, although during the war the shipyards gave it an influx of popula-

## More Buildings Only Solution to New York's Housing Problem

and would not know what such a document was. Speculation in leases of the properties is blamed for a good deal of the profiteering, each succeeding lessee adding 50 cents or a dollar a month to the tenant's burden.

Lively Speculation Proceeds. But in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan and parts of the Bronx the skyrocket rise of apartment rents has been followed by a rise of market value of the property, so that some apartments have changed hands half a dozen times in as many months of war.

There have been reports of a project to use the shore of the Sound for a housing project. The Reconstruction Commission's thorough surveys now in progress include intensive study of some thirty-four city blocks—may yield the concrete facts when they are complete.

It is said, for example, that "60,000 families, or about 200,000 persons," have come to Manhattan and vicinity to await the return of their soldier boys. The figure seems to be a pure guess.

Certainly the hotels have been crowded with transients for a year, but pressure on hotel space has little necessary relation to the general housing problem. As for movement of population the theories given months ago, when the rise of rents became serious, are still current: lack of servants driving householders into apartments; young families becoming more and more sensible of the advantages of the suburbs to their children; higher wages, accompanied by a higher standard of living, producing an exodus from districts of squalor and unhealthfulness, and so on.

The housing shortage, although probably most acute in New York, is a national condition. A Department of Labor statement gives figures on the numbers of families that need accommodation in several cities and towns, according to the estimates of State and city officials, as follows:

Massachusetts—Fall River, 1,050; Lawrence, 200; Pittsfield, 150; Salem, 250.

New York—Albany, 900; Mount Vernon, 200; Niagara Falls, 200; Syracuse, 800; Utica and Yonkers, 300 each.

Pennsylvania—Allentown, 700; Easton, 150; Hazleton, 300; Philadelphia, 30,000; Reading, 500; Scranton, 400; Pittsburgh, 8,000.

Connecticut—New Haven, 1,500. New Jersey—East Orange, 200; Orange, 100; Paterson, 400.

Ohio—Alliance, 300; Columbus, 1,500; Dayton, 500; Warren, 1,500. Indiana—Elkhart, 250; Fort Wayne, 700; South Bend, 1,200.

Illinois—Chicago, 12,000; Aurora, 200.

Michigan—Detroit, 30,000. Port Huron, 400.

Wisconsin—Milwaukee, 2,000. Minnesota—Duluth, 400; Minneapolis, 5,000; St. Paul, 3,000.

Iowa—Cedar Rapids, 500. Also, Kansas City, Kan., 2,000; Dallas, Tex., 400; Baltimore, 2,500; Huntington, W. Va., 500; Denver, 300; Seattle, 1,000; Portland, Ore., 1,000; San Francisco, 1,500; Pasadena, 500.

So that if the disgraced New York man has an impulse to pull up stakes and go elsewhere with his family he will do well to look over the national field before he starts.

History Repeats Itself. If there is comfort in the knowledge that the present crisis is not the first one in the city's history, that our fathers before us went through it all, likewise immediately after a great war, such comfort will be found in perusing the following editorial on "Renting Season," reprinted from THE SUN of January 31, 1888:

"To-morrow will usher in the month which custom has made the renting season in this city. During the next four weeks landlords will expect their tenants to decide whether they will make a change of residence on the first of May, and pay the prices that have been established for the next year, while those who propose to vacate their present premises must commence the pitiable ordeal of house hunting. Unfortunately for the renters, the prospect ahead is anything but hopeful. There has been a very general impression among them that the next spring must necessarily witness a material decline in prices, but the warning of THE SUN now begins to be realized, and tenants see that we were correct in predicting the advance instead of a decline in rents."

"It is an unpleasant fact that rents will this year be considerably in excess of the exorbitant rates that prevailed last spring—that is, if the landlords succeed in disposing of their tenants at the rates which they now propose. The success which they achieved a year ago in enforcing high rentals has apparently given them confidence that renters will quietly submit to any decree of extortion, and accordingly they have marked up their prices a notch higher than the ruling figures for the last year. From the schedules that have been prepared by landlords and house agents we are inclined to think that the average increase in rentals for the present year will not be less than 20 per cent., while instances have come to our knowledge in which the rents have been advanced as high as 100 per cent. The extreme cases, however, pertain to business places, in which case the advance is much greater than in dwelling houses."

"Under these circumstances what shall renters do? We will give our views plainly and frankly. We believe that the combination of landlords will prove successful this year as it did in the last, provided the great demand for city houses continues. Therefore we do not advise renters to put off their arrangements until the eleventh hour with the hope that the landlords will be brought to terms by a failure to dispose of their houses. They are a shrewd class, and they watch the public pulse very closely. They know about what the house accommodation of the city is; they know it is inadequate for the wants of the inhabitants; they know that the people must have places in which to live, and so long as they see an excess of demand over supply they feel perfectly easy, knowing that renters must come to terms sooner or later."

"The only remedy is to go to the suburbs—two, three, or even four miles from the business center. Land is comparatively cheap there, and localities within a radius of four miles from the City Hall, and if all who have the means would purchase homes of their own, the capacity of landlords would be availed, the evils of crowded tenements averted, and the dangers of pestilence-breeding streets escaped."

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